

Tanzania renewable energy growth

Energy minister January Makamba told Parliament that the proposed Sh3.049 trillion budget for his ministry for the fiscal year 2023/24 was in line with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's goal of expanding electricity coverage, protecting the environment through the use of clean energy, protecting Tanzanians against volatile global petroleum prices and ensuring that Tanzanians benefit from its massive natural gas resources.

Apart from completing the construction of the 2,115MW Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project, the government will continue with the preparations for the execution of the \$42 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant and completing the task of connecting all villages to electricity.

Mr Makamba said the government will implement at least ten electricity generation projects and start execution preparations of several others during the next fiscal year as part of its wider goal of producing at least 5,000MW by 2025.

Currently, the various plants, connected to the national grid have the capacity of producing 1,872.04MW, being a 10.5 percent improvement from the 1,694.55MW that were reported at the end of the 2021/22 financial year.

He exuded confidence that implementation of at least ten of the ongoing projects - which will cost taxpayers over Sh1.985 trillion - will put the country on the right path to attaining the desired production in line with the CCM Manifesto for 2020 elections.

In fact, out of the entire Sh3.049 trillion being sought, a staggering Sh2.96 trillion - which translates into 97.1 percent of the ministry's total budget for the fiscal year 2023/24 - will be spent on development projects.

"The dam will reach power generation level in one week period because as of May 23, 2023, the dam's water depth has reached 160.51 metres above sea level while to initiate electricity generation, the water level has to reach a minimum of 163 metres above sea level," he said.

The government has also set aside Sh40 billion for the Kinyerezi 1 Power Plan Expansion Project that will produce 185MW, and Sh6.27 billion for the Ruhudji Hydroelectric Power Station for 358MW hydroelectric power station.

Over Sh5.25 billion for 222MW Rumakali Hydroelectric Power Station, Sh500 million for 321 MW Kikonge hydropower project, and Sh15.52 billion for the Malagarasi hydropower project for 44.8MW hydropower plant.

"Moreover, the current electricity production in the country does not align with the rapidly growing economic



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and social activities, resulting in a significant infrastructure deficit for electricity transmission and distribution," he said.

The minister revealed that despite the considerable achievements in rural electrification, there are still approximately 36,101 hamlets out of the total 64,760 hamlets are yet to be connected to the electricity grid.

"The electricity demand in the country has continued to grow, where during the period of 2022/23, the average electricity demand was 1,363.94 MW, representing a 6.9 percent increase compared to the average of 1,276.43 MW in 2021/22," he said.

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